

longer and they are going on to second careers after retiring from their first, whatever. Part of that is because of our economy and part of that is because the real estate taxes are so high they can't afford to pay them. And Senator Bernard-Stevens is right, he said that not by words but by deeds we need to correct this situation, and, Senator Bernard-Stevens, this is not the right deed. The right deed is to say let's change the method with which we fund education. Let's get away from funding 70 percent of the property taxes into education. Let's look at things like expanding the sales tax to service. I brought that bill in a couple years ago. Let's look at a value added tax. Let's look at some of those things that change the problem that we have with regard to how we pay for education. Those are the deeds, not the deed that LB 160 purports to be with the early retirement issue, but the issue of how we fund education. That's the deed that we have to address and we may not do it this year and next year may not be the year, but sooner or later we're going to...and we can't wait from here to eternity, Senator Chizek, to address that issue.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: We do have to deal with that, and when we deal with that, we can then offer the incentives, and not just incentives, but the just salary that teachers deserve up front and throughout their careers. They should not be enticed to leave the field. That's exactly what we're doing with LB 160. We're saying if you serve a certain number of years, there is an enticement to get out. That makes no sense to me at all, none. We should try to bring them in, try to keep them and we do that through offering them the proper salary that they are so deserving. I would urge you to defeat this bill. Ladies and gentlemen, it is not good public policy. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, would the Chairman of the Retirement Committee yield to a question, please?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes.